

Message Text

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63

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 SY-10 RSR-01 /110 W
----- 037787

R 111530 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8062

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2470

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LI

SUBJECT: PHASE- OUT OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM

REF: MONROVIA AIDAC 2004

1. IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO DISCUSS TERRORISM ON MAY 7 WITH VISITING USG REPRESENTATIVE, TOLBERT EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER TERMINATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM. HE SAID HE FELT PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM WAS NECESSARY EVEN BEFORE RECENT INCREASE IN THREAT OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY AND HE NOW THOUGHT IT MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER. TOLBERT'S STATEMENT WAS OBVIOUSLY PROMPTED BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE WHO SAW TOLBERT JUST PRIOR TO OUR MEETING. I REVIEWED IN SOME DETAIL EVOLUTION OF DECISION TO PHASE OUT PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM, EMPHASIZING THAT WE FELT GOL FUTURE NEEDS COULD BE MET BY CONTINUED TRAINING OF LIBERIANS IN US AND TDY ASSIGNMENTS OF US EXPERTS TO LIBERIA. PRESIDENT SEEMED UNINFORMED AS TO DETAILS OF AGREEMENT OF PHASE- OUT OF PROGRAM. HE ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER WEEKS TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT WITH ME.

2. WHEN AGGREY AND I MET WITH MINISTER OF PLANNING NEAL ON MAY 9, I EXPRESSED MY SURPRISE THAT WHOLE QUESTION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM SHOULD BE REOPENED AT THIS LATE DATE AND THAT PRESIDENT SHOULD BE UNINFORMED AS TO CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN PUBLIC SAFETY FIELD. MINISTER NEAL REITERATED
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HIS POSITION AS EXPRESSED IN THE RECNEX EXCHANGE (REFTEL) AND INDICATED THAT MINISTER OF JUSTICE HAD NOT GIVEN UP HIS EFFORTS TO RETAIN PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM AS PREVIOUSLY CONSTITUTED FOR FEW MORE YEARS.

3. ON MAY 10 I RECEIVED NOTE FROM FOREIGN MINISTER NOTING THAT PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM SCHEDULED TO BE PHASED OUT BY JUNE 30, 1973. NOTE GOES ON TO STATE:

" IT IS OUR CONSIDERED OPINION THAT, SINCE MOST OF THE TRAINING IN THE PAST, BOTH LOCALLY AND IN THE UNITED STATES, HAD BEEN ON A LEVEL BELOW WHAT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE PHASING OUT OF THE PROJECT, THE PROJECT SHOULD BE CONTINUED FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO AND TO CONCENTRATE ON A HIGHER LEVEL OF TRAINING, PREPARATORY TO ITS EVENTUAL PHASING OUT."

NOTE ASKS THAT NECESSARY REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION BE MADE TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. (IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT FONMIN WEEKS NOTE WAS COORDINATED WITH MINISTERS OF PLANNING AND OF JUSTICE.)

4. ON MAY 10 I SENT FOLLOWING NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTER IN RESPONSE TO THE MINISTER' S NOTE IN HOPES GETTING THIS MATTER BACK ON TRACK.

" MR. MINISTER:

" I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO YOUR NOTE NO. 9375/2-12 OF MAY 7, 1973, REGARDING THE TERMINATION OF ADVISORY ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE' S NATIONAL POLICE FORCE UNDER USAID' S PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECT.

" IN ADDITION, I HAVE THE HONOR TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE LETTER DATED APRIL 17, 1973, ADDRESSED TO MINISTER D. FRANKLIN NEAL, WITH A COPY TO MINISTER CLARENCE SIMPSON, FROM THE USAID DIRECTOR WILLIAM C. WILD. IN THIS LETTER, MR. WILD NOTED THAT AID/ WASHINGTON HAD MADE THE DECISION TO TERMINATE THIS PROJECT BY JUNE 30, 1973, BASED ON 1) THE PROJECT' S PROGRESS ACHIEVED TO DATE, 2) THE PUBLIC SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT, PREPARED IN CONJUNCTION WITH REPRESENTATIVES
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OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA, AND 3) YOUR GOVERNMENT' S RESPONSE TO THE PRE- CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE EVALUATION REPORT FOR CONTINUING ADVISORY ASSISTANCE. THIS LETTER ALSO MENTIONED THAT AID/ WASHINGTON HAD CONCURRED IN MINISTER NEAL' S REQUEST FOR SHORT- TERM ADVISORY ASSISTANCE AS NEEDED, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, TO MEET ANY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA' S CIVIL SECURITY

FORCES. IN ADDITION, MR. WILD NOTED IN THIS LETTER THAT AID/ WASHINGTON HAD EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY FOR LIBERIA'S SECURITY PERSONNEL.

" WITH THE ABOVE FACTS IN MIND, I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE USAID DIRECTOR TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH MINISTER NEAL ON THE SHORT- TERM ADVISORY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA. IN PARTICULAR, MR. WILD WILL EXPLORE WITH MINISTER NEAL THE POSSIBILITIES CONCERNING THE HIGHER LEVELS OF TRAINING REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA.

" PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. MINISTER, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."
MANFULL

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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